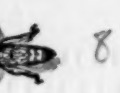


MASSACHUSETTS AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

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35th Year.

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Contributed Articles.

On Important Apian Subjects.

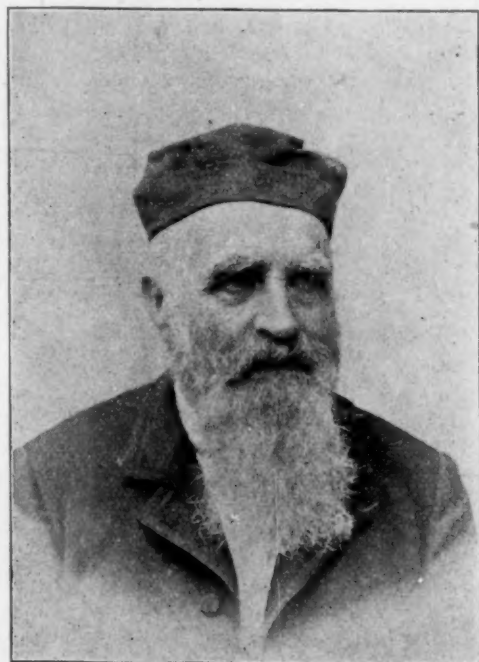
The Production of Extracted Honey.

The first in a series of articles on the subject.

BY CHAS. DADANT.

Until about 30 years ago there were but three ways of harvesting honey, viz.: by smothering the bees with brimstone burning under the hives to get the entire contents of the box; by driving out the bees for the same purpose; and by placing caps, or boxes, on the top of the hives, to secure the surplus honey.

The smothering of bees, which has been practiced for thousands of years, is yet carried on in some parts of Europe.



CHAS. DADANT.

Even not far from Paris, the center of civilization and refinement, in Gatinais—a district where the sainfoin (literal translation, "healthy hay"), or French grass, is as extensively cultivated as timothy and clover in North America—this custom of the dark ages seems to still prevail with quite a number of people.

Every spring these bee-keepers of Gatinais purchase colonies in box or straw hives—swarms of the previous year. These purchases extend several hundred miles away, and the colonies are sent, by carloads, to the Gatinais apiaries, where the bees are brimstoned as soon as the hive has been filled on the flowers of the sainfoin. As there are two varieties of this



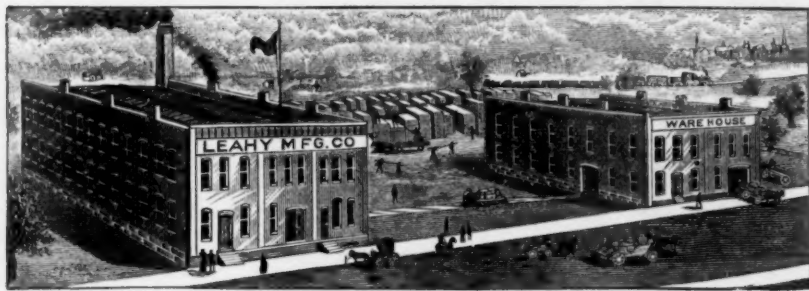
C. P. DADANT.

plant, one blooming a little later than the other, it gives a large quantity of honey, unsurpassed in quality. It is to be much regretted that this good honey and forage leguminous plant cannot be grown successfully here. Was it ever tried in the West—in Colorado, California, or Oregon?

The profits thus obtained by the producers of the swarms, and by the slaughterers of the bees, are so large that they delay the introduction of movable-frame hives in the villages where these customs prevail.

After the bees have been killed, the combs are cut out of the hives and sorted. Then each grade is put into a solar honey-extractor, or in a tin box, subjected to a high temperature. After a few days, the honey having been drawn out, the remaining combs are put under a powerful press, to obtain what little honey may remain in the wax.

The second method employed—that of driving out the



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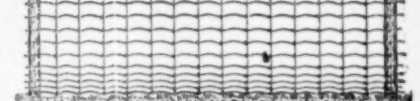
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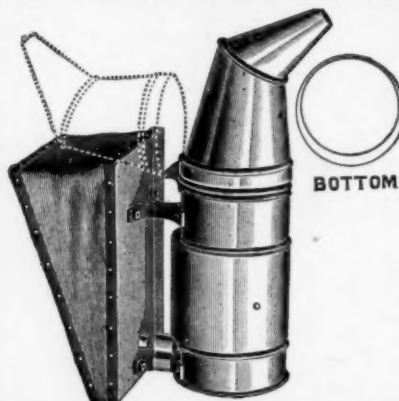
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